WHY JIHAD?
A STUDY OF WHAT DRIVES INDIVIDUALS TO WAGE JIHAD

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CASE STUDY: MOROCCO

• Approximately 34 million people in population

• 98.7% of the population is Muslim

Current King is Mohammed VI, came into power July 1999.

• What is our exposure to Morocco and other Islamic Nations?
WHY DOES THIS COME TO MIND?
May 16, 2003: Twelve Moroccan men blew themselves up in Casablanca, killing 45 people.


2006: Five young men from the same neighborhood as Chino left their families and homes for Iraq to wage Jihad.

By the end of 2006, eight men in total had left their homes in Tetouan to wage Jihad in Iraq, according to Moroccan officials.
TWO PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF TERRORISM

• RELIGIO-POLITICAL
• SOCIO-ECONOMIC
RELIGIO-POLITICAL FACTORS

“What is and why Jihad”?

Greater Jihad: Greater is a spiritual struggle
Lesser Jihad: Lesser is a holy war against infidels and non believers

Modern interpretations of jihad have emerged in recent decades:
  Jihad is defensive, proclaiming Islam
  Jihad is aggressive and militant

Classical Islamic View divides mankind into two categories:
  The House of Islam
  The House of Unbelief
“UNTIL ISLAM IS NO LONGER THREATENED....”

Islam: center of enlightenment and truth, surrounded by unbelievers who will eventually convert or be converted by force.

Many Muslims share the political, moral, social and cultural belief that the West is an imposing cultural, economic and diplomatic threat.
THE ROOT OF MOROCCAN RAGE?

• Historically, Morocco is a country with a liberal practice of tolerant Islam

• Recent political decisions have changed the opinion of many Moroccans, including:
  – International trade agreements with the United States

• Triggered: 5/16/03 Casablanca Suicide Bombings
WHY TERRORISM IN MOROCCO

• Friendship with United States that is...
  – Waging war against Muslim countries and organizations
  – Supportive of Israel and neglecting the Palestinians.

• Popular opinion of President Bush: “The biggest terrorist in the world is the American President”

• “All Moroccans have the duty to defend other Muslims under attack.” (Dayday, Tetouan youth)
SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

• Relative Deprivation:
  – 15% of the population are unemployed
  – 15% live below the poverty line.

• Engagement in action because of feelings of deprivation and frustration.

• How can the West - those who are in the House of Unbelief and War – and who are inferior to Muslims, be economically and socially a more powerful civilization than those in the House of Islam?

• “If they kill us, we go to God. If we stay here, there will be joblessness.”

(Tetouan Youth)
JIHAD: THE CAUSE AND THE TOOL

- Bearing the modern interpretation of jihad in mind...

- Jihad offers a release for those who wish to express their anger and frustrations, by praising God and honoring Islam.

- Recruitment of Jihadis:
  - At the Mosque
  - Algerian militants
  - “Sleeper cells”
  - Grassroots extremist support

- Jihad is no longer an action of the individual. It is the action of men who are fighting together in the belief of passion and action.

- Of the 60-75 individuals who come to Iraq each month to wage jihad, 40% of them come from Northern Africa.
IN CONCLUSION

WHY JIHAD?

• Jihad: extreme Islamic vehicle, tool and justification for the anger and frustration experienced over political and social dilemmas

• Jihad: allows them to serve God and results in religious fulfillment

• Jihad: offers them solidarity

• Jihad: offers many a way out of deprivation
QUESTIONS?